

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action mailed February 13, 2002, claims 4-34 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Barr et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,816), claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ooishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,628,010) and Enokida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,746 B1), and claim 35 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barr et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,816) as applied to claim 32, and further in view of Angiulo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,275,839).

Claim 6 is canceled. The foregoing rejections of remaining claims 1-5 and 7-35 are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, and 32 are independent claims. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1; claim 5 depends from claim 4; claim 8 depends from claim 7; claims 12, 13, and 14 depend from claim 11; claim 18 depends from claim 17; claim 20 depends from claim 19; claim 22 depends from claim 21; claim 24 depends from claim 23; claim 26 depends from claim 25; claim 28 depends from claim 27; claim 30 depends from claim 29; and claims 33, 34, and 35 depend from claim 32.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-23, 25-32, and 34-35 are amended. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. A Version with Markings to Show Changes Made to the Claims is included herewith.

**1. Rejections of claims 4, 5, and 7-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barr**

Barr discusses a method and apparatus for identifying textual documents and multi-media files corresponding to a search topic. \*

**Claims 4-10, 17-20, and 27-30 of the present application**

In the present invention, a mediation server creates a searched result including an index image corresponding to a client's searching request and transmits the searched result to the client. \*

Consistent therewith, each of independent claims 4, 7, 9, 17, 19, 27, and 29 of the present application recites the foregoing features of the present invention. For example, claim \*

4 of the present application recites an index image creating section "creating an index image corresponding to each file received from the information providing server"...a searching section..."obtaining an index image corresponding to the searched file from said storing section"...and...a transmitting section "transmitting, to the client the searched result generated by said searching section". Claims 7, 9, 17, 19, 27, and 29 of the present application recite similar features.

Claims 5, 8, 10, 18, 20, 28, and 30 respectively depend on a corresponding independent claim, and, in addition, recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 5/4 recites that the transmitting section "transmits the index image, the link information and a corresponding file received from the information providing server to the client".

Barr does not disclose or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

#### **Claims 11-14, 21, 22, and 31 of the present application**

In the present invention, a reference terminal includes a feature that the index image is automatically created and displayed together with the searched result.

Consistent therewith, each of independent claims 11, 21, and 31 of the present application recites the foregoing features of the present invention. For example, claim 11 of the present application recites an index image creating section "automatically creating an index image for displaying each of contents of the display control file and the display file received from the information providing server"...wherein "the display control file and the display file corresponding to the searched result"; and a display section "displaying contents of the searched result" received from the mediation server "together with the index image".

Moreover, dependent claims 12-14, and 22 recite patentably distinguishing features of their own. For example, claim 12 of the present application recites "the display section sequentially displays the plurality of index images created while being changed over".

By way of another example, claim 13 of the present application recites "the display section displays the plurality of index images and a piece of character information included in the searched result in arrangement on the same window".

By way of yet another example, claim 34 of the present application recites "the index image data includes a piece of data for displaying an image in which a display size of an image

displayed on a screen of the client as the information is reduced.”

Barr does not disclose or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

## **2. Rejections of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 103**

Ooishi discusses a method and apparatus for accessing character files image data. The Ooishi apparatus opens simultaneously a plurality of character files, retrieves each of the character files to read, write, replace and delete graphic pattern data of a character designated by a user, and closes simultaneously the plurality of character files.

Enokida discusses an information processing method and apparatus for displaying a list of a plurality of image data files and a list of search results.

The combination of Ooishi et al. and Enokida et al. would be a terminal device that is used standalone, including a method and apparatus for accessing character files image data.

Independent claim 1 of the present application recites an information providing server comprising “a providing section providing an index image held by the holiday section according to a request from a searching server, wherein the providing section provides, to the searching server, an index image to be included in a searched result corresponding to a searching request that the searching server receives from the client, the searched result including the index image is provided from the searching server to the client”.

Neither Ooishi nor Enokida, either alone or in combination, discusses the foregoing features of the present invention.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

## **3. Rejections of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. 103**

Anguilo et al. discusses representing a graphic image on a web page with a thumbnail-sized image.

The combination of Barr and Anguilo would be a method and apparatus for identifying textual documents and multi-media files corresponding to a search topic, representing a graphic

image on a web page with a thumbnail-sized image. \*

Claim 35 depends from claim 32, and patentably distinguishes over Barr in view of \*  
Angiulo based upon its dependence from claim 32. \*

That is, neither Barr et al. nor Angiulo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,628,010), either alone or  
in combination, discuss the above-mentioned features recited in claims 32 and 35 of the  
present application.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the  
application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is  
requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge  
the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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July 15, 2002

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please CANCEL claim 6.

Please AMEND the following claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-23, 25-32, and 34-35:

1. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server comprising:
  - a storing section storing a display control file including a character string and a control character string for controlling the display wherein the display control file is provided with a client according to a request from the client;
  - a holding section holding an index image displaying a single picture to be display according to the display control file; and
  - a providing section providing an index image held by the holding section according to a request from a searching server, wherein the providing section provides, to the searching server, an index image to be included in a searched result corresponding to a searching request that the searching server receives from the client, the searched result including the index image is provided from the searching server to the client.
2. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 1, further comprising[:] an index image creating section creating an index image on the basis of the display control file.
3. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 1, wherein the storing section stores a display file related to the display control file, and wherein the index image displays contents [of] displayed by the display control file and the display file.
4. (ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file held an information providing server, comprising:
  - an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to [a] each file received from the information providing server; [and]
  - a storing section storing the index image created by the index image creating section;

a receiving section receiving a searching request from the client;

a searching section searching a file corresponding to the searching request, obtaining an index image corresponding to the searched file from said storing section, and generating a searched result corresponding to the searching request, the searched result including the obtained index image and link information to be access to the information providing server; and

a transmitting section transmitting, to the client, [the index image created by the index creating section and link information to be access to the information providing server] the searched result generated by said searching section.

5. (ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 4, wherein the transmitting section transmits the index image, the link information and a corresponding file received from the information providing server to the client.

7. (ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with a file held an information providing server, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of [the] each file held by the information providing server;

a searching section extracting an element information corresponding to a searching request given from the client from the element information storage section;

an index image creating section creating an index image corresponding to the element information extracted by the searching section; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the created index image, as a response corresponding to the searching request, created by the index image creating section to the client.

8. (ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 7, further comprising[:] a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted by said searching section and [an] the index image created by said index image creating section,

wherein the transmitting section transmitting a searched result including a display control file, as the response corresponding to the request, created by the display control file creating section to the client.

9. (ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server providing a client with files held by a plurality of information providing servers, comprising:

an element information storage section collecting and storing element information of [the files] each file held by each of the information providing servers;

an index image creating section creating and holding an index image corresponding to element information of each [of the files] file collected by said element information storage section;

a searching section extracting, from the index image creating section, an index image corresponding to a searching request given from the client; and

a transmitting section transmitting a searched result including the index image extracted by the searching section, as a response to the searching request to the client.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) A mediation server according to claim 9, wherein the searching section extracts, from the element information storage section, element information corresponding to the searching request given from the client,

the mediation server further comprises a display control file creating section creating a display control file including the element information extracted and an index image corresponding to the element information, and

the transmitting section transmits to the client a searching result including the display control file, as a response to the searching request, created by the display control file creating section.

11. (ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal for referring to a file, the file is held an information providing server and including a display control file and a display file related to the display control file, comprising:

a transmitting/receiving section transmitting a searching request of the file to a mediation server and receiving a searched result from the mediation server;

an index image creating section automatically creating an index image for displaying each of contents of the [said] display control file and [said] the display file received from the information providing server by a single picture, wherein the display control file and the display file corresponding to the searched result; and

a display section displaying contents of the [file] searched result received from the [information providing] mediation server together with the index image.

12. (ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section sequentially displays the plurality of index images created while being changed over.

13. (ONCE AMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates an index image corresponding to each of the files received, and

the display section displays the plurality of index images and a piece of character information included in the searched result in arrangement on the same [screen] window.

14. (AS UNAMENDED) A reference terminal according to claim 11, wherein the index image creating section, when a plurality of files are received, respectively creates the index images corresponding to each of the files received in accordance with a predetermined priority, and

the display control section sequentially displays the plurality of created index images in the sequence of being created by the index image creating section.

15. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server [or a client] with a display control file including a display character string and a control character string for controlling a display, comprising [steps of]:

creating an index image displaying contents displayed by the display control file by a single picture; and

transmitting an index image created together with the display control file to [the another server or the client] a searching server according to a request from the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a searching request form a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching requesting including the display control file and the index



image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

16. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method in which an information providing server provides another server [of a client] with a display control file and a display file relate to the display control file, comprising [steps of]:

creating an index image displaying contents of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

transmitting the index image together with the display control file to [the another server or the client] a searching server according to a request from the searching server, wherein the searching server receives a searching request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

17. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server comprising [steps of]:

obtaining element information of [a] each file held an information providing [servers] server;

extracting a piece element information corresponding to a search request given from a client among the obtained element information;

creating a searched result corresponding to the searching request including an index image corresponding to the extracted element information; and

transmitting [a created index image] the searched result including the created index image to the client.

18. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server according to claim 17, further comprising [steps of]:

creating a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information and the created index image; and

transmitting the searched result including the display control file to the client.

19. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of [an] a mediation server,

comprising [steps of]:

obtaining and storing element information of files held by an information providing server;

creating and holding index images corresponding to each of the stored element information [stored];

extracting an index image corresponding to a searching request given from a client from the held index images [held]; and

transmitting a search result corresponding to the searching request including the extracted index image [extracted] to the [reference terminal] client.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing method of a mediation server according to claim 19, further comprising [steps of]:

extracting [the] a piece of element information corresponding to the extracted index image among the stored element information [stored];

creating a display control file including [an] the extracted element information and [an] the extracted index image; and

transmitting a searched result including the created display control file to the client.

21. (ONCE AMENDED) An information reference method of a reference terminal, comprising [steps of]:

receiving a searched result corresponding to a searching request for a file from a searching server;

receiving a file corresponding to the searched result from an information providing server, the received file containing a display control file and a display file [corresponding to the display control file from an information providing server];

automatically creating an index image displaying contents of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

displaying the created index image [created] together with the searched result.

22. (ONCE AMENDED) An information reference method of a reference terminal according to claim [20] 21, further comprising [a step of] displaying contents of the received file [received] together with the index image.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprises:

a program by which an information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, display contents of a display control file including a display character [storing] string and control character [storing] string for controlling [a display by a single picture] displaying; and

a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image [created] in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a searching request from a client, creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file and an index image that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

24. (AS UNAMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 23, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

25. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprises:

a program by which the information providing server creates an index image, wherein the index image displays, by a single picture, display contents of a display control file and a display file relating to the display control file [by a single picture]; and

a program by which the information providing server transmits to a mediation server the created index image [created] in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation transmits to a client a searched result including the index image corresponding to a searching request from the client.

26. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim [28] 25, wherein the programs further comprises a program by which the information providing server transmits the display control file together with the index image to the mediation server.

27. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprises:

a program by which a mediation server collects a piece of element information of each file held by an information providing server;

a program by which the mediation server extracts [the] a piece of element information corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the collected element information [collected];

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including an index image corresponding to the extracted element information [extracted]; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the created index image to the client.

28. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the programs further comprises:

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information [extracted] and the created index image [created]; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the searched result including the created display control file [created] to the [reference terminal] client.

29. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with programs executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which a mediation server collects a plurality of element information of files held by an information providing server;

a program by which the mediation server creates index images corresponding to each of the collected element information [collected];

a program by which the mediation server extracts an index image corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the created index images [created] and generates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including the extracted index image;  
and

a program by which the mediation server transmits the [index image extracted] searched

result to the client.

30. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium according to claim 29, wherein the programs further comprising:

a program by which the mediation server extracts an element information corresponding to a searching request given from a client among the collected element information [collected];

a program by which the mediation server creates a searched result corresponding to the searching request including a display control file including the extracted element information [extracted] and the extracted index image file [extracted]; and

a program by which the mediation server transmits [a created display control file] the searched result to the client.

31. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer readable medium recorded with a program executed by a computer, wherein the programs comprising:

a program by which the reference terminal receives a searched result corresponding to a searching request for a file from a mediation server;

a program by which the reference terminal receives from [the mediation] an information providing server a display control file and display file related to the display control file corresponding to the searched result;

a program by which the reference terminal automatically creates an index image displaying contents of the display control file and the display file by a single picture; and

a program by which the reference terminal displays [an] the created index image [created] together with the searched result.

32. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server, providing a client with information including image and text according to a request of the client, comprising:

a storing section storing a display control file[, wherein display control file including image data relating to the information, text data relating to the information and control data for displaying the text corresponding to the text data and the image corresponding to the image data to] for displaying a text and an image on a screen of the client;

a holding section holding a piece of index image data corresponding to the information; and

· a providing section providing the index image data with a mediation server in response to a request given from the mediation server, wherein the mediation server receives a searching request from the client, creates a searched result including display control file and an index image corresponding to the searching request that receives from the information providing server, and transmits the searched result to the client.

33. (AS UNAMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, further comprising:

a creating section creating the index image data based on the display control file.

34. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein the index image data includes a piece of data [of a] for displaying an image in which a display size of [a] an image [displaying to the] displayed on a screen of the client as the information is reduced.

35. (ONCE AMENDED) An information providing server according to claim 32, wherein the information is provided as a home page[;], and the index image [data includes data of text and a image in which display sizes of text and a image displaying in first page of the home page is reduced] displays a text and an image displayed on a first page of a home page by a display size smaller than an original size of the first page.